

CROSSSECTION



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Special Points of Interest

- * Election results and honorees from our Annual Meeting
- * Photography Contest; show off the beauty of Lake County
- * See what local school students are doing in Envirothon and in our rivers.

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN LAKE COUNTY

By: Jill Green, Director, Lake County Stormwater Management Department

In 1999, the USEPA issued new rules pursuant to the Clean Water Act requiring urban areas to improve water quality. Specifically, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations have imposed six minimum control measures which are targeted at improving our Nations water resources. The six minimum control measures include:

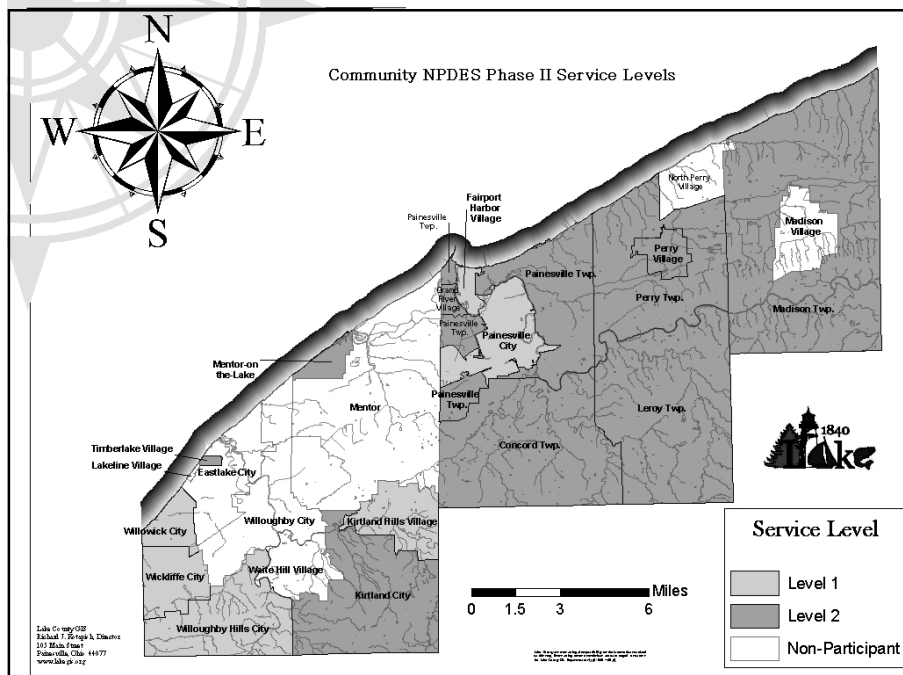
1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Most communities in Lake County met the urbanized area definition in the

2000 census and were therefore included under the new regulations. In response to these requirements, Lake County formed a Stormwater Management Department in August 2003. The Department has 16 member communities that receive services including: Concord Township, Fairport Harbor, Grand River, Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, Leroy Township, Madison Township, Mentor on the Lake, Painesville, Painesville Township, Perry Township, Perry Village, Timberlake, Wickliffe, Willoughby Hills, and Willowick

The new rules require that local governments bear all costs associated with the new regulations, so Lake County instituted a stormwater user fee program. The fees are charged on individual parcels of land based on the amount of impervious area on the property (hard surface). The amount of impervious land is used because it has been shown to be a good indicator of the amount of runoff that leads to pollution. All residential properties are charged a base rate. Nonresidential properties are charged based upon the square footage they contain divided by the equivalent residential unit (ERU) which is 3,050 sq. ft. For example, a commercial property with 30,500 sq. ft. of impervious surface would pay 10 times that of a residential property ($30,500/3,050=10$).

There are several organizations within Lake County that currently provide local communities with assistance on stormwater and illicit discharge issues. Our Department has partnered with these organizations to combine our expertise and reduce costs to Lake County residents. Aside from reducing costs this partnership strategy is essential to providing an effective approach to improved water quality for all communities. Water resources and flows transcend local political boundaries. Therefore, only through mutual cooperation



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

STREAM CROSSING IDENTIFICATION PROJECT ON THE WEB!

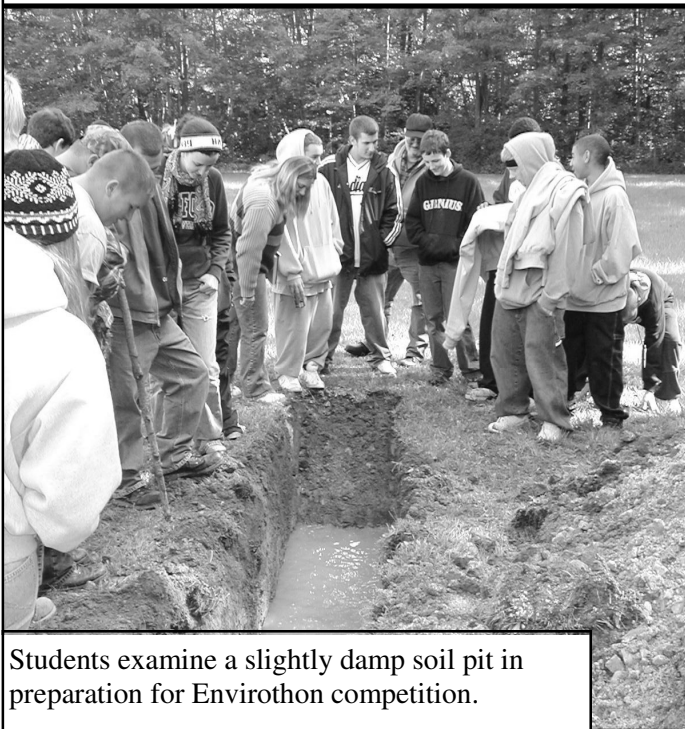
Have you seen the signs? There are new stream crossing signs in place throughout Lake County. There is also a new website that gives details about each crossing. If you haven't seen one of our signs in person, or you have, and want to find out more, direct your web browser to http://www.lakecountyohio.org/soil/stream_sign_project.htm, or just connect off of the Lake SWCD home page. On this site, you can view a picture of each crossing, read a bit about the stream, and learn about the sponsoring organization. You can also find out where the signs are located. Plans are in the works to get the Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index information online so that a Lake County resident can look up any stream and know what the water quality score.

In an effort to bring attention to the unique water quality resources of Lake County, Lake SWCD, along with the Lake County Engineer and local sponsors, have developed the stream sign program. The Lake County SWCD was awarded a \$5,000 grant from The Cleveland Foundation to help fund the *Stream Crossing Identification Project*. This project will be a step towards educating Lake County residents about the watersheds in which they live.



"CLEAN WATER FOR LIFE" PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a photography contest that focuses on the importance of streams and rivers in our daily lives. Entries will be judged on composition, originality, technical skill, and relevance to the theme "Clean Water for Life". First, second, and third place winners will be chosen, and entered into regional PIPE (Public Information/ Public Education) competition. Anyone who lives or owns land in Lake County is eligible, and an individual may enter up to three photographs. All entries must be submitted with an entry form by December 1st. For more details, contact the Lake SWCD office, or go online to www.lakecountyohio.org/soil for complete contest rules and entry form. PIPE is a group that works with issues related to stormwater education. This year has been focused on increasing public awareness of the watershed concept.



Students examine a slightly damp soil pit in preparation for Envirothon competition.

TRI-COUNTY ENVIROTHON TRAINING HELD AT CROOKED CREEK CONSERVATION CLUB

High school students from Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties gathered at Crooked Creek Conservation Club (formerly TRW) for this informal Envirothon session. At Tri-County students are not competing against each other, they simply gather information, and get to know resource people available to them. Students rotated among four different topics over the course of the day, covering four of the five Envirothon topics. Next spring, Lake County high schools will compete in the northeast Ohio regional Envirothon for a chance to move into higher levels of competition. This competition will be held in Salem Ohio, and two teams of five students each will represent their school. Many thanks to the resource people for their time and expertise, representing several government agencies, local industries, and non-government organizations. Also, a special thanks goes out to the Crooked Creek Conservation Club for hosting this event for the second time. Next year's Tri-County Envirothon will be held here in Lake County.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT PAINESVILLE TOWNSHIP PARK

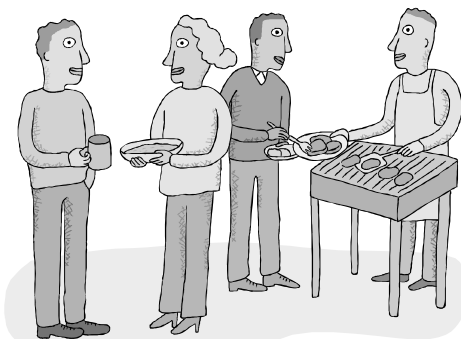
Lake SWCD hosted its Annual Meeting on October 2nd. The evening began with a barbecue chicken and rib dinner. Jim Bissel, with Cleveland Museum of Natural History was the guest speaker. He inspired those in attendance to check out the 'weeds' in their backyards for rare wildflowers, and also talked about the different types of plant habitats unique to Lake County.

Election Results: Congratulations to Stephanie Beres and Ronald Mauk, who were elected to terms of three years on the Board of Supervisors. They will replace Paul Belanger and Robert Zeitz, who both chose not to run for re-election.

Conservation Awards: A portion of the evening was set aside for awards and recognitions. Karen Rayl was chosen as the District's Teacher of the Year Award, and Rachel Mauk received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Also honored were the Gabor Family for their conservation easement, Land Design Consultants, Inc. for Outstanding Conservation Efforts in Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design, Hallmark Excavating, Inc. for Outstanding Conservation Efforts in Contractor Erosion and Sediment Control, and Little Mountain Homes, Inc. for Outstanding Conservation Efforts in Homebuilder Erosion and Sediment Control.

Door Prize Sponsors: We would also like to thank these local individuals, organizations, and businesses for donating door prizes:

Agora Gardens	Gale's Garden Center	M E Enterprises	Silver Lining Alpacas
APR Tool	Giant Eagle	Mackenzie Nursery Supply	Springlake Nursery
Aqua America	Gilson Gardens	Maple Ridge Nursery	Tops Friendly Market
Arcola Creek Nursery	Hellriegel's Inn	Martin's Nursery	West's Orchard
Backyard Feeding Station	Holden Arboretum	Niedzialek Farm and Crafts	Wyatt's Greenhouse and Garden
Best Cuts	J. Michael Hass	Ohio Wine Producers Association	Center
Brennan's Fish House	Joughin Hardware	Quail Hollow Resort	Yardmaster
Capp's Tavern and Eatery	Klyn Nurseries	Rainbow Farms	Yoe's Country Ridge Gardens
CM Brown Nurseries Inc.	Lake County Captains	Rich Miller	
Cool Runnings Bass Club	Lakeland Comm. College	Roemer Nursery	
Cottage Gardens	Herman Losely and Sons	Sabo's Woodside Nursery	
Crile Rd Hardware	Lowe's Home Improvement	Secor Nursery	
CT Consultants	Warehouse	Shreve Nursery	



WATERSHED WATCH

Another successful monitoring season has drawn to a close. Despite a stream restoration project at Lake Metroparks' Helen Hazen Wyman Park that kept us out of the river, a hurricane that dumped several inches of rain in one day, and the rivers running high and cold, the monitoring season was successful, thanks in part to a well-timed Indian summer. Nine schools participated this year, with almost 240 students. One new school has joined the program; welcome Mrs. Detrio and her fifth grade science classes from Washington Elementary. All nine schools found their sites to rank 'Excellent' and are already making plans for the spring season.



and coordination can an urban area obtain their water quality objectives. (Continued on page 3) well as act as the intermediary for any issues with the Ohio EPA.

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

(Continued from page 1)

Our partner organizations include:

- Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.
- Lake County General Health District
- Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ohio State University Extension

We will be providing liaison and reporting services for all our member communities. We will be responsible for creating the annual report required for our NPDES permit compliance as

In the coming months we will be formalizing our relationships with our member communities by drafting Memorandums of Understanding with each of them. We will be creating resolutions and ordinances for our communities and the County Commissioners to pass facilitating our compliance with the NPDES Phase II regulations. We will also be drafting rules and regulations for the Stormwater Management Depart-



LOOK FOR THE ANNUAL
TREE SALE IN NEXT QUARTER'S
ISSUE OF CROSECTION

WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

These questions are all taken from quizzes that were given by the various presenters at Tri-County Envirothon 2003. How would you do in competition?

- 1) What is the most common type of water pollution in Ohio
A. Fertilizer B. Sewage C. Sediment D. Gasoline E. Sand
- 2) A river or stream running through an industrialized area would likely have which of the following characteristics:
A. Lower oxygen levels B. Higher water temperatures
C. More channelized D. Higher siltation E. All of the above
- 3) As communities grow, the amount of impervious cover increases through many sources. Which of the following is not a source of impervious cover?
A. Parking Lots B. Roof tops C. Yards D. Forests
- 4) Maintaining your _____ tank will help prevent bacteria and nutrients from entering groundwater and surface water.
A. Gas B. Septic C. Heating Oil D. Water E. Fish
- 5) What natural feature is shared by most U.S. cities settled in the 1800's?
A. Mountains B. Forests C. Lakes D. Rivers E. Springs
- 6) Mottling in a layer of clayey soil might indicate which of the following?
A. Recent disturbance by agriculture B. Contamination by heavy metals C. Bioturbation, or mixing by soil organisms D. A zone that is sometimes waterlogged E. A young soil
- 7) The five factors that determine soil formation are parent material, plant and animal life, time, climate and
A. Siltation B. Topography C. Erosion D. Molting E. Fire cycle
- 8) Of the particles sand, silt and clay, clay is the largest. T or F?

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

•440-350-2730 (main number) •FAX 440-350-2601

Toll-free •298-3334 ext. 2730 Madison/Perry •918-2730 Cleveland/Western Lake County

•1-800-899-LAKE outside Lake County only

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm

•E-mail: soil@lakecountyohio.org

•Web site: www.lakecountyohio.org/soil

AL BONNIS, District Conservationist, NRCS	350-2730
PAM BROWN, District Secretary/Treasurer	350-2730
DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
CHAD EDGAR, Urban Stream Specialist	350-2032
BETH LANDERS, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
JOHN NIEDZIALEK, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034
BRETT RODSTROM, Storm Water Specialist	350-2092
MATTHEW SCHARVER, Resource Protection Tech.	350-2031

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- Nursery Growers of Lake County, Inc.
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Lake County Farm Bureau

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

The public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings, held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.

Lake County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 125 East Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

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